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death-bed on a view of the effects of the pernicious system in which he had been the ostensible actor, and mistakingly identifying his own want of success with the supposed welfare of the state, exclaim, "Ah, my country!" and well might Charles James Fox close his career of unsuccessful opposition to such fatal measures, by saying, in contemplation of the difficulties into which his country had been brought, "My friends, I pity you."

May renovated order, and all restoring reform arise out of the present confusion. Whether we contemplate our internal state, or our external relations, the necessity of reform is by the experience of every successive day becoming more apparent to those who will open their eyes to see the dangers which await us! We are told of the dangers of reform, by men interested in the continuance of abuses, but the dangers of an obstinate retention of corruption, and a senseless pertinacity in error, are more to be dreaded, as pressing more fatally on us in the present crisis, as prognostics of the disease which afflicts us.

DOCUMENTS.

PROCLAMATION OF THE SPANISH JUNTA.

Cadiz, July 12.

"CITIZENS OF CADIZ—Your wishes are now to be accomplished with those of all Spain. Your sacred rights, forgotten and nearly lost, will be restored by the Cortes to be convened in the following month. You are about to exercise the solemn functions of legislators, of which you have been deprived by tyranny, falsely called legitimate and sovereign authority. With difficulty we have arrested the sword of power, which has caused the evils that we deplore, to return to you your just claim to have independent representatives who shall watch over your happiness. The oppressor of human nature would not have advanced so far in his attempts at universal despotism, if the nations under his iron sway had known how to maintain the dignity of men and citizens, which knowledge constitutes the vigour and strength of Empires. History, citizens, has taught us by more than one example how much Spain has been indebted to that heroic fortitude, which, in our Cortes, has made Kings themselves amenable for the abuse of their power

Remember that Princes have sometimes treated you as if they had no duties, and you no rights, and as if the uttering of your complaints were a crime against the State.

"Commence then your duties in Spain, which is as free to you as it was to your ancestors. For this purpose employ the right of suffrage, which you enjoy by nature and by the constitution of your country; and let not intrigue and seduction surprise you in the very asylum of your liberty, dictating to you the selection which ought to be the unbiassed exercise of your will and pleasure. Favour, friendship, rank and property give no title, and it is not by men possessing these that the country is to be saved. Patriotism, talent, merit proved by experience—these it is, that should claim your attention. He who solicits your vote, and employs artifices to attract public approbation, estimates at a low rate the independence of a generous people, and ought to be marked by you as a suspicious character. True patriotism possesses too much genuine modesty to be the hero of its own story; and would rather convince you by deeds than words that it deserves your confidence.

"Neither ought you to forget that you are responsible to your children and posterity, for the faithful discharge of your duty on this occasion. Since the establishment of the Monarchy, you are perhaps the only Spaniards who have enjoyed so fair an opportunity to give permanence and solidity to civil institution. It, after two years of uncertainty and vacillation, when you have been so often brought to the edge of the precipice, you do not yet discover the origin of your calamities to consist in the imperfect representation of the national will, what will be the consequence? The government and all good citizens will lament your culpable blindness, and they will have at least the negative consolation of knowing that history will point you out as the destroyers of your family, and the assassins of your country.

"You cannot now justify yourselves, as at the commencement of the revolution, by the consternation into which the enemy threw the country, so that having no means of chusing and examining, you were given up to clamorous pretenders who availed themselves of the confusion, to domineer over you; nor can you vindicate yourselves by professing that you are the dupes of intrigue, as the painful experience of two years has taught you how to detect and despise it. You are now enabled to exercise calm reflection, and to overcome those influences which

designing men would dispense to deceive you.

"Recollect, that according as you act rightly or wrongly, you establish the honour or fix the disgrace of Spain—every thing depends upon the integrity of the members of the August assembly which is solemnly to declare the immutable principles of justice, and to consecrate before tyrants the hallowed rights of nations.

"This Superior Junta earnestly hopes, considering the importance of the business entrusted to you, and rigidly observing the rules prescribed to you for the election, you will prevent any corrupt interference, and you will preserve in your recollection, that if you are unfaithful, you will do all in your power to promote the eternal disgrace of your posterity.

"By order of the Superior Junta,

"LOUIS-DE GARÇOULO, Sec.

"To Andres Lopez, President.

"Cadiz, June 8, 1810."

SLAVE CAUSE.

PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS.

On Saturday, the 28th of July, 1810, the lords commissioners of appeals in prize causes finished their sittings for the session, and previous to their adjournment they gave judgment in various received cases of great importance. One of them especially was of the greatest interest to the friends of liberty, and humanity, and its decision was such as will doubtless give great and equal satisfaction in this country and America.

CASE OF THE AMÉDÉE—JAMES JOHNSON, MASTER.

This was a vessel under American colours with slaves from Africa, captured in December, 1807, in the West Indies, and carried into Tortola. The claimant pretended that she was bound to Charleston, South Carolina, where the importation of slaves continued to be lawful to the end of that year; but that having been detained on the coast, and there being no prospect of reaching Charleston before the 1st day of January, 1808, the period appointed for the cessation of the Slave Trade in every part of the United States, by a law of the General Congress, the Master of necessity bore away for the island of Cuba, there to wait directions from his owners.

It was contended, on the other hand, by the captor, that this statement was a mere pretence, and that, in truth, the original plan of the voyage was a destination to Cuba, which was unlawful under the American laws, long previous to their general abolition of the slave trade.

Admitting, however, the case so to be, it was strenuously contended for the

claimant, that a British court of prize had no right to take any cognizance of American municipal law, and that as no belligerent right of this country had been violated, the property ought to be restored to the neutral owner. A series of precedents seemed to support this doctrine.

The ship was condemned at Tortola, and the enslaved Africans were according to our abolition act, restored to their freedom, but the Claimant appealed, and the liberty of the Africans, as well as the property of the ship, depended on the issue of this appeal.

The case was solemnly argued in March last, and as, in the opinion of the court, it turned on the new question of the effect of the American and British abolition acts on this species of contraband commerce, when brought before a court of prize, the case, on account of its importance, has since stood over for judgment. Several other cases of American slave ships have also stood over, as depending on the same general question.

On the above day the judgment of the court was delivered by Sir Wm. Grant, the master of the rolls, nearly in the following terms:—

"This ship must be considered as being employed at the time of capture in carrying slaves from the coast of Africa to a Spanish Colony. We think that this was evidently the original plan and purpose of the voyage, notwithstanding the pretence set up to veil the true intention. The claimant, however, who is an American, complains of the capture, and demands from us the restitution of property of which he alleges that he has been unjustly dispossessed. In all the former cases of this kind, which have come before this court, the slave trade was liable to considerations very different from those which belong to it now. It had at that time been prohibited (as far as respected carrying slaves to the colonies of foreign nations) by America, but by our own laws it was still allowed. It appeared to us therefore, difficult to consider the prohibitory law of America, in any other light than as one of those municipal regulations of a foreign state of which this court could not take any cognizance. But by the alteration, which has since taken place, the question stands on different grounds, and is open to the application of very different principles. The slave trade has since been totally abolished by this country, and our legislature has pronounced it to be contrary to the principles of justice and humanity. Whatever we might think as individuals before, we could not, sitting as judges in a British court of justice, regard the trade in that light, while our own laws permitted it,—